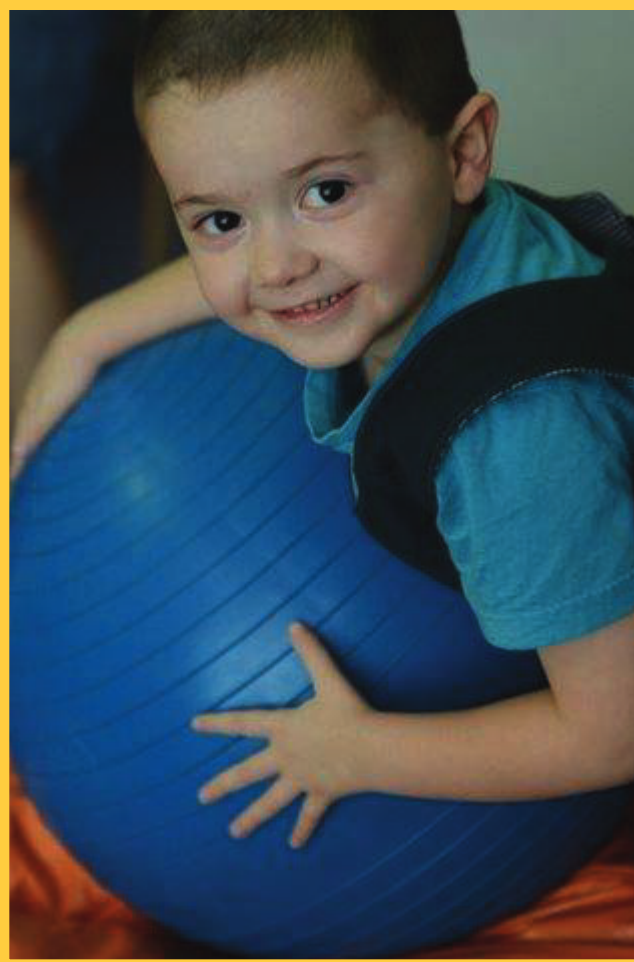




Sensorimotor Early Childhood Themes

Jenny Clark Brack, OTR/L

www.SPDconnection.com



The Shooting Stars Program has adopted the Ready S.E.T. Go! preschool curriculum which is a program that integrates sensory integration into daily curriculum. Sensory integration activities develop the bodies neurological system which better prepares children to learn. Activities with this program work from top to bottom...head to toes. When all activities

Sensory Integration is the organization of sensory input for use. The use may be a perception of the body or world or an adaptive response, learning process or development of some neural function. All sensory processes take place at an unconscious level. All sensory systems work together to help us learn, attend, read, write, do math and participate in daily activities.



The Ready S.E.T. Go program sequences 7 activities that involve sensory integration. The goal is that after completing these activities, the child will be better able to listen, attend and learn. Activities are created within a classroom theme approach which makes them more enjoyable and motivating for all.

cont.



1. Warm Up: This cues children for group time and introduces the theme to the children. Activities may include: singing, finger plays, action songs, books or flannel board stories

2. Vestibular: structures in the inner ear that detect movement of head position. An over responsive system will be children who have difficulty with this area may have gravitational insecurity, avoid playground equipment or become car sick. An under-responsive system will show signs of difficulty sitting still, or is a thrill seeker
Activities include: rolling on mat, spinning, swinging, loco motor games, scooter boards, obstacle course

3. Proprioception: receptors in joints, muscles and tendons perceive contraction, stretching and compression. Signs and symptoms of dysfunction may be in-coordination, poor articulation, difficulty grading amount of pressure, coloring with heavy pressure, pushing scissors rips paper, holds pencil too tight, breaks pencil lead
Activities include carrying, lifting, passing, pushing, pulling heavy objects, jumping, and massage/deep pressure to joints.

4. Balance: incorporates both the vestibular and proprioception input
Activities may include: balance beam, balance games, yoga poses

5. Eye-Hand Coordination: involves the visual sensory system which effect reading and writing skills. Activities include: throwing, catching, balls, beanbags, balloons and bubbles.

6. Cool Down: purpose is to help children attain a "just right" alertness level for focusing on the fine motor task.
Activities include: reading stories, relaxation, songs and flannel board stories.

7. Fine Motor is an art project with focus on process and comprehension of theme: cutting, coloring, drawing, gluing and tactile activities.

